

COUNTRY DATA: KAZAKHSTAN : Information from the CIA World Factbook

INTRODUCTION

Ethnic Kazakhs, a mix of Turkic and Mongol nomadic tribes who migrated into the region in the 13th century, were rarely united as a single nation. The area was conquered by Russia in the 18th century, and Kazakhstan became a Soviet Republic in 1936. During the 1950s and 1960s agricultural "Virgin Lands" program, Soviet citizens were encouraged to help cultivate Kazakhstan's northern pastures. This influx of immigrants (mostly Russians, but also some other deported nationalities) skewed the ethnic mixture and enabled non-ethnic Kazakhs to outnumber natives. Independence in 1991 drove many of these newcomers to emigrate. Kazakhstan's economy is larger than those of all the other Central Asian states largely due to the country's vast natural resources. Current issues include: developing a cohesive national identity; expanding the development of the country's vast energy resources and exporting them to world markets; diversifying the economy outside the oil, gas, and mining sectors; enhancing Kazakhstan's economic competitiveness; developing a multiparty parliament and advancing political and social reform; and strengthening relations with neighboring states and other foreign powers.

GEOGRAPHY

Location	Central asia, Northwest of China; a small portion west of the Ural (Zhayyq) River in eastern-most Europe
Area	total: 2,724,900 sq km Land: 2,699,000 sq km Water: 25,200 sq km
Climate	continental, cold winters and hot summers, arid ad semiarid
Natural Resources	major deposits of petroleum, natural gas, coal, iron ore, manganese, chrome ore, nickel, cobalt, copper, molybdenum, lead, zinc, bauxite, gold, uranium
Total Renewable Water Resources	109.6 cu km (1997)
Freshwater Withdrawal	total: 35 cu km/yr Per capita: 2,360 cu m/yr
Natural Hazards	earthquakes in the south; mudslides around Almaty
Environmental Issues	Radioactive or toxic chemical sites associated with former defense industries and test ranges scattered throughout the country pose health risks for humans and animals; industrial

	pollution is severe in some cities; because the two main rivers that flowed into the Aral Sea have been diverted for irrigation, it is drying up and leaving behind a harmful layer of chemical pesticides and natural salts; these substances are then picked up by the wind and blown into noxious dust storms; pollution in Caspian Sea; soil pollution from overuse of agricultural chemicals and salination from poor infrastructure and wasteful irrigation practices.
PEOPLE	
Population	15,522,373) July 2010 est.)
Ethnic Groups	Kazakh (Qazaq) 53.4%, Russian 30%, Ukrainian 3.7%, Uzbek 2.5%, German 2.4%, Tatar 1.7%, Uighur 1.4%, other 4.9% (1999 census)
Religions	Muslim 47%, Russian Orthodox 44%, Protestant 2%, other 7%
Languages	Kazakh (state language) 64.4%, Russian 95%
Literacy Rate	total: 99.5% male: 99.8% Female: 99.3%
Major Infectious Diseases	
GOVERNMENT	
Type	republic; authoritarian presidential rule, with little power outside the executive branch
Independence	16 December 1991 (from Soviet Union)
Constitution	first post-independence constitution adopted 28 January 1993; new constitution adopted by national referendum 30 August 1995
Legal System	based on Islamic law and Roman law; has not accepted compulsory ICJ jurisdiction
ECONOMY	
Agricultural Products	Grain, cotton; livestock
Industries	oil, coal, iron ore, manganese, chromite, lead, zinc, copper, titanium, bauxite, gold, silver, phosphates, sulfur, uranium, iron and steel; tractors and other agricultural machinery, electric motors, construction materials
Import commodities	machinery and equipment, metal products, foodstuffs
Import Partners	Russia 28.5%, Cina 26.72%, Germnay 6.59%, Italy 5.58%, Ukraine 4.8%
Export Commodities	oil and oil products 59%, ferrous metals 19%, chemicals 5%, machinery 3%, grain, wool, meat, coal
Export Partners	China 16.34%, France 9.23%, Germany 8.32%, Russia 6.9%, Ukraine 5.52%, Romania

	5.25%, Italy 5.12%, US 4.34%
Per Capita GDP	\$ 197.7 billion (2010 est.) \$184.8 billion (2009 est.) \$182.6 billion (2008 est.)
Population below poverty line	8.2%

*CITATIONS: All information included above is extracted from the CIA World Factbook except where noted.

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General	
Life Expectancy at Birth (in years)	65.4
Average number of years in School (in years)	15.1
Gross National Income Per Capita (In US Dollars)	10,234
Gender Inequality	
Female Seats in Parliament (%)	12.3
Population with at least a Secondary Education Female (% Of 25 and older)	92.2
Population with at least a Secondary Education Male (% Of 25 and older)	95.1
Labor Force Participation Female (%)	73.9
Labor Force Participation Male (%)	80.4
Births Attended by Skilled Health Professionals (%)	100
Poverty	
Population surviving on \$1.25 per day (%)	<2
Empowerment	
Number of Journalists Imprisoned	1
Corruption Victims (% of people who face a bribe situation in the last year)	23
Political Engagement (% percent of people who voiced opinion to public officials)	11

Sustainability	
Fossil Fuels as Primary Energy Source (%)	99
Renewable Resources as Primary Energy Source (%)	1
Population without Access to Water (%)	5
Population Without Access to Sanitation Services (%)	3
Population affected by natural disasters (% between 2000-2009)	571
Human Security	
Number of Refugees leaving this country	4.8
Number of Internally Displaced People in This Country	..
Prevalence of Undernourishment (%)	<5
Demographics	
Urban Residents (% of total Population)	58.5
Health	
HIV Prevalence in Female Youth (% ages 15-24)	0.1
HIV Prevalence in Male Youth (% ages 15-24)	0.2
HIV Prevalence in Adults (% ages 15-49)	0.1
Other	
Official Development Assistance Per Capita (in US dollars)	21.2
Population without Electricity (%)	..

